

Dickson and Grignon papers, 1812-1815.

DICKSON AND GRIGNON PAPERS—1812&—1815.

The following letters are selections from a large number of early documents secured by the editor, while in Green Bay, Fort Howard and Kaukauna, during the summer of 1887. They throw much light on the history of what is now Wisconsin, during the war of 1813–15, and supplement the Lawe and Grignon papers published in Vol. X., *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, pp. 94–121. The letters of Robert Dickson were found in the papers left by John Lawe, of Green Bay, the bulk of which were presented to the Society by James M. Boyd, of Kaukauna, Judge Lawe's son-in-law and the executor of his estate. The letters by Louis Grignon are taken from his letter-book, kept in French, and presented to the Society by Charles de Langlade Grignon, of Green Bay, Louis's grandson.

COLONEL DICKSON¹ TO JACOB FRANKS.²

¹ Col. Robert Dickson had long been a trader at Prairie du Chien.—(*Wis. Hist. Colls*, x, p. 213.) During the war of 1812–15, he was engaged as Indian agent for the British, for the Western district.— Ed.

² An early Green Bay trader, uncle of John Lawe. See *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii., p. 247, note 2; iii, p. 250.— Ed.

Michi ma Oct, 2 d 1812.

Dear Sir ,—My last respects were by the fellsavoin³ to you sinse which I have been still detained here waiting for the goods which after many delays are at last arrived & I have with much difficulty obtained a tolerable Assortment. You will of course take the Articles you require for your part of the Country & be guided by appearances. It will be necessary for Mr. [John] Lawe to make use of all dilligense to get to the Prairie [du Chien] as the

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season is much advanced, he will give you all the News. I was glad he came in here as it is of the greatest consequence the River

3 Menomonees.— Ed.

272 St. Peters should be well supplied. I am in expectation of hearing from the Commandant something respecting your flour it is rather singular the manner he has acted with you. There have come up five Canoes of presents for the Indians. We have done everything in our power to send them out, among the Indians but I am afraid we shall not succeed. I expect to leave this in a few days & shall go down as fast as I can to Montreal. I am fully determined to come to a final Settlement with the people in Montreal. Wilmot left this on the 18 th of last month. I trust I shall be able to make a favorable arrangement & throw off the Shackles that have so long fettered us it is high time. We have no chance of doing any thing in the Country in the way we have been, this some time past. We are as yet quite in the dark respecting Politics, nor can any one form an opinion respecting the duration of the War. I shall from Montreal write you & if any thing of consequence has then transpired I shall have letters sent you by Express from Detroit. With best wishes for your health and that of your Family I remain

Dear Franks, Yours truly, R. Dickson.

Mr. J. Francks .

Indorsed: "Mr. Jacob Franks, La Baye, Oct. 1812."

DICKSON TO FRANKS.

Michilimackinac , OCT. 14 th 1812.

Dear Sir ,—I have been detained here sinse Mr. Lawe left this, owing to the King's Vessell having run aground at the [MS. obscure]—but she is now free and will get off this evening. And this time I trust that we will get at last to La Baye as the season is fine. We will still be

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in good time. No News by the Vessells. A Canoe from Montreal arrived here on the 11 th Inst. I received a letter from Mr. Pothier¹ who informs me of Mr. Gillespies Arrival there. An Attack on the lines was expected in the beginning of this month the Canadians are all hearty in the Cause. Regular

1 Agent of the Northwest Fur company.— Ed.

273 troops were daily expected from England. No idea can at present be form'd respecting the duration of the War. Mr. Ogilvy met with an unfortunate accident, his horse having fallen with him, his life is in danger which I am sorry for. I shall lose no occasion that may offer of writing you. I enclose you Jean Veau's¹ Note which was forgot. I owe the Baker here near 400 lbs. flour. I have directed Mr. Oliver to pay him which you will please return; also 100 lbs. I owe a man here named George. The pease have been placed to your credit with Mr. Crawford he has left some Articles for you which you will find here.

1 Jacques Vieau. See *ante*, p. 220, note 5.— Ed.

I am in hopes that that you will come in & see what is going on here. If Mr. La Suassage is with you please remember me to him.

With best wishes for your health & prosperity, I remain, Dear Sir, Yours very truly, R. Dickson .

Jacob Franks, Esqr .

DICKSON TO JOHN LAWE.²

2 Then a lieutenant in the Indian department, under Dickson.— Ed.

Sandwich , Aug 31 1813.

Dear Sir ,—When Mr. Grignon³ arrives at La Baye with the gunpowder for the Indians you will take the necessary precaution to get intelligence of what is doing in the Mississippi.

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Should the Americans have come up you will endeavor by all means to get the Indians to drive them down again.

3 Louis Grignon, also a lieutenant in the Indian department under Dickson. Grignon's uniform coat, used at this time, together with his commission, are on exhibition in the Society's museum.— Ed.

Wishing you well I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

To Mr. John Lawe, La Baye . 18

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LIEUTENANT GRIGNON TO DICKSON.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

McKinac 18 Sept r 1813.

Dear Sir ,—I have received since your departure your orders to me. I hope you are aware that I will execute them to the best of my ability.

I have kept the Indians quiet, following your orders with great care. The men who have been here a long time whom I have been able to see, have aided me in keeping the Sioux contented and I have succeeded in making the others follow their example. But too much has not been done. I have much fear at times, that is to say of embarrassment by the Indians, and even by the interpreters who have no fear of them.

There is always lack of money, lack of money.¹

¹ While sorting Louis Grignon's papers, in the Society's archives, in the spring of 1888, a clerk discovered among them three pieces of paper money, of the sort paid to the creditors of the British government in Canada and the Northwest during the war of 1812–15. These

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were probably the earliest forms of paper currency ever in actual circulation within what is now Wisconsin. Following is a fac-simile of the form issued by the commissary at Michilimackinac, the bracketed portions having been written in with a pen:

Deputy Assistant Commissary General.

A second form is as follows, the blanks having been originally filled in with pen, but the writing fluid has since faded out:

Grignon had doubtless received this paper as pay for military services, and failed to redeem it before the close of the war. Despite the word Bon, which, repeated seventeen times in a variety of types, makes up a border at the left-hand side of the Quebec bill, given above in fac-simile, these promises to pay were sadly at a discount during the war, and it was probably not worth Grignon's while to attempt getting his money on them.— Ed.

By your letter you believe me to be at La Baye. It is not possible that I can leave without orders. The order has come. the Sioux go today and I go tomorrow with Thomas as you have ordered. There remains only the goods of the Gov'ment which have not yet arrived.

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I will not tell you that I am well, for I always enjoy good health. I will deliver to Mr. Askin the barge [obscure] before I go.

I am Sir, Your ob t Servant, L. Grignon .

To R. Dickson .

GRIGNON TO DICKSON.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye 5 October 1813.

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Sir ,—I depart today to follow my route with the powder alone.

I have consulted with Mr. Cass & I will leave with him the powder for the Chippewas & Oatawas. Finally I depart desiring only to do my full duty and that you will be satisfied. But I may be deceived in some of these things as I have no positive knowledge. I believe the couriers run 276 great risks in the Mississippi, but I hope for the best. If any thing happens I will send you the news immediately.

The Sioux have exhibited great discontent, particularly the son of L'elle rouge, but I think from the speech of Petit Corbeaux,¹ who I believe is the best disposed, that the least may be expected. L'elle rouge is for whipping the Sauteaux.²

¹ Little Crow.— Ed.

² Chippewas.— Ed.

I am, waiting for the pleasure of seeing you in good health,

Your servant, Louis Grignon.

Mr. Robert Dickson .

DICKSON TO GRIGNON AND LAWE.

Winnebago Lake Nov. 13, 1813.

Gentlemen ,—I have been directed by Capt Bullock³ Commandant of Michilimackinac to procure Beef Flour & pease for his garrison from Le Baye. You will therefore deliver Serg t McGalpin what you can collect taking his Receipt for the same. The price agreed for with you is what is given for the same kinds of provisions at Michilimackinac. You will please furnish the Detachment of Michigan Fencibles with provisions while at La Baye & for their

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route to Mackinac sending in an account of the same & also what else may be necessary for their voyage.

3 Richard Bullock, captain in the 41st foot.— Ed.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen, Your most obedient humble Servant, Robert Dickson , Agent & Superintendent to the Western Nations.

N. B. Put the Beef in Barrels.

Messrs. P. Grignon & J. Lawe, La Baye .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Nov r 13, 1813, Lac Puants .

Dear Sir ,—I received both your letters with the receipt for the Goods enclosed which was right except the Ommission of Six Medals.

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I have had a most miserable time in the Rapids had Jean Veau & the Baye people not come with me, I should [have] never got up. But I have a fine prospect before me hunger & cold, all the small Lakes are frozen but I trust a Southerly wind will unthaw them. I send you by Jean Veau a Bale Carrot Tobacco 1 pa Blankets & a Dozen Sissors. Our men left a pkg. of Ball which if found Jean Veau will deliver you. There is a pec of Linen for Mrs. Lanchevin—please give Petite from your goods one pr. 2 pt Blankets a gun six pounds Powder Ball shot two yds. Grey Coating one Blankets Strouds & some small Articles. Also old Mr. Rheume apr Blankets & a Capot—the other a Capot.

Mr. Ducharme

1 pr. Blankets

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1 pr. small "

6 lb. Powder

1 Carrot Tobacco.

6 lb. Ball

1 Blanket & Strouds

I did not intend to give you this trouble but I have not a moment to spare. I will return you these articles. I send you an additional kg of Gunpowder by Jean Veau. I can hardly hold my pen for cold. With Best Wishes

I am Dr Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

N.B. You will please clothe Wechemquae's Children I have given for him his wife.

Mr. John Lawe, La Baye .

DICKSON'S ORDERS TO LAWE AND GRIGNON.

Green Bay , November 26, 1813.

Orders To Lieut. John Lawe [and] Lieut. Louis Grignon .

Gentlemen ,—From some occurrences that have lately taken place—it will be necessary for you to act in your public capacities with the greatest vigilance. All persons holding improper language to Indians or others, you will immediately seize & confine. If any reports of consequence come to your knowledge from any Quarter you will give me the earliest information. Should any of the three prisoners 278 or others of the Soldiers desert, you will send a party of Indians to bring them back, dead or alive; when any of the chiefs

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come to this place you will urgently hold the same discourse to them as I have sent by Lt. Chandonnet [Chandonnai]¹ to Millwackee.

¹ *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x., p. 112, note.— Ed.

Having the greatest reliance on you both for your honor & integrity I remain fully persuaded that you will act with the greatest Energy in the defense of the best of Kings and Our Glorious Constitution.

Y r humble Servant, Robert Dickson , Ag t & Superintendent to the Western Nations.

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Garlic Island Dec r 5, 1813.

Dear Sir ,—I only got here the third day after leaving you at Mr. Jacobs we followed the track of the men with the Oxen, who got lost, such a road I never saw in my life. I left the two horses at the Puant Rapid,² but Back deserted & Rangé found him on his way to la Baye at the Chute of Grand Konomie.³

² Winnebago rapids, now Neenah.— Ed.

³ Grand Kackalin, now Kaukauna.— Ed.

Nothing new here, I found the Grand Soldat waiting my arrival with other Indians two Puants have just arrived from the Detour de Pin. All quiet on the prairie. I hope that Mr. Jacobs has got Mascas fifty Bushels of wheat & pair of Oxen. There must no toll be paid at the mill. I will account to you for it and be so good as [to] tell Rabbis that he must not cheat the King, although he may cheat all the rest of the World which I am convinced he does. I have given an Order on you to them Indians for two Blanketts, 2 pts 1 strouds a Capot & Shirts. An old fellow and family at the River de Pomme⁴ Naicetoche & his Son were

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here, two rogues but I received them tolerably well, I only told them that if any Indians next Spring spoke in favor of our

4 Apple river.— Ed.

279 Enemies, that I was determined to make an example of them. I would wish you and Mr. Grignon to consult about getting four resolute Indians to sett out for Mackinac with the prisoners. McGulpin & two other men will accompany them. Mr. Pulman¹ now goes down to arrange matters. I will thank you to shew him any attention in your power.

1 *Wis. Hist. Coils.*, x., p. 500.— Ed.

With best wishes for yourself & family, I am Dear Sir Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Mr. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winibago Lake Dec r 19 1813.

Dear Sir ,—I received your separate favour of 9 th & 13 th Inst, and have been so much harrassd by one thing & another since that I have had not a moment to answer them. I sent off Sixteen men yesterday for the Mississippi. Duncan Graham² followed this evening.

2 *Wis Hist. Colls.*, ix., p. 467.— Ed.

I have seen all the Indians of the Rock River & a good number from the Ouisconsin. The Court Orreilles,³ about Twenty, have been here & received presents. but I shall give nothing indeed to any one from that side except to Mishelle Boyer if he come here. They are a sett of Vagabonds without Courage or probity.

3 A band of Chippewas.— Ed.

I send you two white fish netts 3 lb Nett Thread & 6 lb Sturgeon twine. I will send you more as soon as I find it also Salt how much I cannot say having no Stillyards. Mr. Pulman went down yesterday with the Soldiers, you must do the best you can to feed them, if your Provision fails & the people refuse to sell, you must seize what is necessary in the King's name. I would by no means wish to proceed to extremities, but his Majestys soldiers must be furnished with Provisions. I sent Mr. L. Grignon 16 lb sturgeon twine & 8 lb Nett thread the other day—I will tell you my reason for doing so when you come up.

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I hardly know what to say respecting Mr. Masca's¹ wheat his mode of selling it is quite new & he deserves credit for his ingenuity, but I cannot allow myself to be so greatly imposed upon. His offer is like selling a loaf of Bread reserving all the Crust & as much of the Crumb as he chooses to take. Had I accepted his offer, Masca & Rabbee would have settled the business handsomely. If he will sell his Wheat without any further Stipulation at Three dollars a Bushell take it—if not we shall keep our Eye on it when Hunger will make us keen. We will try to do without his Oxen for the present. My respects to Mr. Masca.

¹ C. B. Masca, the nickname for Dominique Brunette, Sr., a resident of Green Bay, on the west side of the Fox.—(*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x., pp. 136, 138.) He appears to have been a miller.— Ed.

It gives me pleasure to learn that the Sturgeon have be gan to appear at La Baye. We are going to pierse the Lake tomorrow. I trust that our Fishery will be productive else we shall look blue before the Spring. On my arrival here from below had been eating pease without grease for sometime. I gave them as much Beef as they could eat & stuff—they only swallowed the moderate portion of 150 lbs. for their Breakfast. Thank Heaven they are now dispersed. There came some time sinse four Otoways & a woman here & I cannot prevail on them to move off they will neither hunt or fish and I cannot see them starve. My Provisions are very low. I send for two bags of Pease & two hundred Flour. L t Pulman is to give two men to assist them to the Small lake. I hope the ice will be strong enough for

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Sleighs towards the end of the Month. I should be sorry to be deprived of the pleasure of seeing the People New Years day.

Endeavour to discover who gave the Indians Rum. I shall take care they will not follow that practise long. Whoever exchanges or buys any Articles given by his Majesty as presents to the Indians shall refund the same when demanded & if refused shall be compelled by Force. You will tell the Indians to take back their property immediately.

When Mr. Grignon & you come up we shall fix on the proper manner of sending the Prisoners to Mackinac. I am 281 sorry that the Mill is nearly Stopped, but we must do as well as we can. Give the Soldiers Wheat & let them grind it with a hand mill if to be got.

I regret Wasson—you acted right in having him decently inferred. Tom & Williams letters have been received—my respects to the Ladies for their dilligence. I now send four deer Skins to make me a Capot—they are not well [prepared] & not yet smoaked let them take measure by Chapeu's¹ Capet only a little larger & something longer. Please furnish an Otter or two for the Capes—Borders & Cuffs. You see I will be very fine, & I promised you know who a green Blanket which I now send. Please give it to her. I forget her Name or perhaps I never knew it. This is the tenth letter I have wrote to day, & a pretty long one. I will write you tomorrow by Mr. Le Salliere² try to procure two Horses to go to Millwackee & return.

1 Stanislaus Chappeau, a Green Bay trader.— Ed.

2 Le Sellier, an old Canadian voyageur, who was Major Long's guide in 1823.—(*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x., pp. 72, 504.)— Ed.

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

My Compts to Chapeu.

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Addressed: "Lieut nt John Lawe, La Baie. P r Dabin & Lalarné."

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake Dec r 20, 1813.

Dear Sir ,—I wrote you last night by my Men, this will be handed to you by Mr. La Saliers who goes to Millwackee. You will please deliver to him Two Kgs gun powder 50 lbs each Two Bags Ball & One Bale of Carrot Tobacco one Blanket 2 Pts & a Kettle. I will replace the Tobacco as I know you will be Short of that Article; Endeavor to send him off as soon as possible. Nothing further occurs to me at present.

I remain Dear Sir Yours truly, R. Dickson .

P. S. You will give them Provisions for the Voyage.

Lieut. John Lawe .

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DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebago Lake , Dec r 25, 1813.

Dear Sir ,—I received yours by the Men with the Provisions. I have been eat up lately and as you say it is lucky the Ice would not allow the Beef coming up else it would have gone with the Rest.

Michelle Boyer has been here. I told him to see the Indians at Millwackee know that they can only expect Amunition & Tobacco from you. It would require a Ship load of Goods to cloathe them all.

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I expect you and Mr. Grignon at all events in the last of the year. I shall return with you & we shall send off to Mackinac soon as possible. Mr. Palman writes that some of the gentlemen are unwell & cannot come I am sorry for their misfortunes, but hope that they will recover.

I am most heartily tired of this distributing of Goods and wish for the Spring. I hear nothing but the cry of hunger from all Quarters. I think if we can come across an American Convoy of provisions, it will go hard but we shall take it. If you come up in a Cariole bring a few potatoes & a pec of Beef. The Otoways stole the Quarter of Pork I got from Mr. Chevalier¹ & my Larder is not well stocked at present. My respects to Mr. Pulman he is to come up with you. I am glad that you take care of him. Not a Sturgeon yet but live in hopes.

¹ Barthelemie Chevalier, a south-side settler at Green Bay.— Ed.

I had letters from the Prairie three days ago. All quiet there the Saukes have all quitted the Americans. An Envoy from the Spaniards, I believe Mr. Henry, has been among them. I tell them to strike on the Americans & Both the Spaniards & English will support them. Inform Mr. Grignon of this news as I do not write him please give my respects & say that I shall be glad to see him with you, with the Compliments of Season. Accept of my sincere wish for your health & that of your Family.

I remain Dear Sir Yours truly, R. Dickson .

P. S. Remember me to Mr Jacobs. I expect him with you if not sick.

Lieut. John Lawe .

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GRIGNON TO CAPTAIN ASKIN.¹

¹ Capt. John Askin. of the British Indian department, at Michilimackinac.— Ed.

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[Translated from the French by James D. Butler.]

Bay, 10 January, 1814.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

I have had the honor and pleasure to receive your letter of the 4th inst. which informed us of the disaster and sad situation of the army of Gen. Proctor. A young Menomonee taken prisoner in the same engagement was released after 24 days imprisonment. According to letters he carried and which we intercepted, the intention of the enemy was to come and attack Mackinaw last autumn. Lack of provisions had stopped them. But in the early spring they would come. To permit of the prisoner of whom I have spoken is "By order of Gen. Cass." I suppose he commands at Detroit. He had obtained his release on condition that he would return and bring an answer to the letter.

On the side of the Mississippi, according to the news which Sacs & Foxes who come from Ft. Madison bring is that a Capt. of Gov. Howard was to come to Prairie du Chien with an army of 2700 men. Many think this is not their plan, for soon after we learned that they had gone up the river Des Moines and built a Ft at Pees and then that they had come down the same river.

* * * * *

Sir, Your very Obedient Servant, Louis Grignon .

Mr. John Askin, McKinac .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Lac Puants , Jan y 13 1814.

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Dear Sir ,—I got here in One day from La Baye with ease,—I send you by Jean Veau 1 Bale Tobacco some Tea & Three dress'd Skins for a p r Capotes for me. No news here. Take care of yourself beware of getting cold continue drinking the Spruce but not too much of it. I forgot the 284 Copy of one of my Montreal Letters for Messrs McGill &c please look for it and send it me.

I trust that the Express for Mackinac is off, as there is every appearance of fine weather. I have very little flour I am obliged to keep the Indians from Starving, no fish. If Beupre is alive Five days hence it will be a wonder. I look on him & Men all ready for the other World. I can not assist them, as we have nothing ourselves. Please get Mascas wheat made into flour that is to be sent here what I have is hardly eatable being quite Black. Write me by any opportunity.

I am Dear Sir Yours Truly, R. Dickson .

Lt. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winibagoe Lake 20 th Jan y 1814.

Dear Sir ,—I received yours by Dabin yesterday with the copy of the letter I had forgot.

This will be handed to you by Thomas¹ who I sent to La Baye with some of his people that they may get some provisions, they are in a starving condition here. They are on the Lake from Morning till Night but spear little or nothing. Please furnish them with Ten Bushells of Wheat, & procure for them a Cow, Ox or Bull. I only mentioned the Wheat so if you can find an Animal let them have it. Since my arrival from La Baye I have consumed almost all the provisions. There was only a little of the Flour Black it was when Jean Veau was here. White or Black you must contrive to get me a little, hunger is not nice respecting the quality. No News as yet from the Prairie. I am getting impatient. I always dread some

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Roguery in that Quarter. I am pleased you got the Express off in the time you did, as they have had good weather. I think by this time that they are near Mackinac.

1 Thomas Carron, or Old Tomah,— Ed.

Beaupré was here with Alexis on the 18 th he will live some time longer as he has received some provisions. I 285 gave him Sugar & Tea as he was quite destitute, not with the view of having it paid or returned.

Alexis goes down in a day or two & I will send a couple of Men to grind the Flour, if not already done. Respecting the Sturgeon a Cart load would be highly acceptable.

I send for yourself 15 y ds of Flannell & the Linen I promised the Fete Jaune and five dressed Skins to Mr. Pulman.

That Scoundrel Kus agent imposed on me I thought I had seen him at La Baye when questioned he denied having been there. I may see him again.

Mr. Thierry has been sick since the first of the year—but I believe that he will get over it.

I am sorry to hear that Mr. Grignon is ill. please tell him that I will assist him with Medicins, or my advice if I can be of service. I am unacquainted with the Nature of his disease.

I am glad to learn that you are no worse. take care & Stop taking the Pills whenever your gums feel sore. I am convinced that you will send soon news for the better. I will write you as soon as I hear from the Messrs. Pothier.

Mr. Le Saliers is an excellent hand at the great guns.

I had a most lamentable Epistle from Mr. Chandonet, with an Empty kg—saying that there was not a drop to drink my health on New Years day, I am sorry that they must still

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continue in purgatory, however, they will rub up something on the old Score. They all drank enough last year for Two to come.

May your health & that of Your family be preserved—My respects to Lt. Pullman Lt. Grignon & Chapeu. Write me all the News, big & Small.

I remain Dear Sir Yours faithfully, R. Dickson .

Lt. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake , Jan y 23 d 1814.

Dear Sir ,—I told you in my last by Thomas that I was in daily expectation of hearing of some roguish tricks from the Mississippi, nor am I disappointed as you will see by the inclosed packet.

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You will show the letters to Lieut. Grignon and send them back by my men.

The Sioux have behaved like villains as they are, they must soon suffer for their villainy.

The Sauteux behave with great moderation, but I think they will soon return & cut off the Sioux—which they deserve—The All Rouge is at the bottom of this & got the Sauteux killed on purpose to prevent any Siouxs coming this way. You will see the patriotism of Mr. Rollette¹ by his letter. The flour was at Six dollars when Duncan arrived & he raised it to Ten. I must do for the best—provisions must be had at the end of our guns one way or other.

1 Joseph Rollete, a Prairie du Chien trader.— Ed.

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Dease² has acted very improperly in not delivering the parole, to the Sauks & Renards from the puants, when he receives Orders he is not to deliberate about consequences, it is with me that the responsibility remains. They all seem to bear an inveterate hatred to the puants, tis true they are vagabonds but let the people of the prairie recollect that if the Americans are not with them the obligation is due to the Puants.

² Capt. Francis Michael Dease, sub. Indian agent under Dickson, and captain of the Prairie du Chien militia.—(*Wis. Hist. Colls*, x., p. 298, note).— Ed.

As for the Sissitons & Yanctongs³ they may take their own way they are of little consequence in the present state of Matters. I am sorry that Mr. Anderson⁴ makes any advances to the Tonere Rouge⁵ on Gov t acc t as he will not be paid.

³ Sioux tribes— Ed.

⁴ Capt. Thomas G. Anderson.— Ed.

⁵ Referring, doubtless, to the TTonnerre Noir (Black Thunder), mentioned in Anderson's Journal.—(*Wis. Hist. Colls.*, x., p. 207.)— Ed.

I wish he had remained eating Beef last summer he would not have injured our cause in the manner he did.

Mr. Aird⁶ pleads hard for the Tobacco the puants stole from him but I am afraid that his demands will end in smoke. His opinion respecting the Sioux is a very just one.

⁶ James Aird, a trader at Prairie du Chien. See *Id.*, ix., p. 294; x., p. 503.— Ed.

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Please send by my men One bag of Flour if ground. I am out of that Article almost, about 25 lbs remaining. Try if possible to procure some bushells of Pease from Mr. Grignon or Mr. Lanchevine.¹ I have not five days provisions for our men if you get provisions

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forward them in a Sleigh. Mr. Buckatte will be soon with us he is more trouble than the Embargo. Give Mr. Pulman Sergt. Roy's letter & beg of him to send an Order constituting him Sergeant from his having this.

1 Langevin, husband of Domitilde, daughter of the elder Langlade.— Ed.

Two Sauk Indians are here. I wish Thomas should see them before their departure. At least One half of the Sauks are below with the Americans—although the people of the prairie tell me they are all above.

I am sorry that I forwarded any letters from Mackinac to the prairie, as Mr. Barthe² says flour will be worth fifteen Dollars in the Spring to Mr. Rollette. Government is at a great expense in supporting individuals and the Trade & it appears that some so far from promoting the interest of the Government when in their power throw obstacles in its way.

2 Louison Berthe, interpreter.— Ed.

If God spares my life untill Spring I shall do my duty rigidly without respect to persons. I shall forward no more private letters unless open. May you be prosperous & happy—

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lieut. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

[No date, but apparently written in January, 1814.]

Memorandums—To send by Lieut. Pullman to Mackinac One Ox-fat.

Thirty Five Barrels Flour.

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Lt. Chandonnet & Mr. Thierry to go to the Manistique with Mr. Pulman, two men for them—to collect sturgeon.

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To ask Lt. Grignon if he can send Barrels for the flour, if not to furnish them.

To ask Mr. Porlier for the flour he promised to send—probably he has not the quantity as he told me he had none for sale.

To send up four Men to take down the Boat with Two hundred flour & provisions for the Men.

Handcuffs.

Newspapers for Mr. Dease.

R. Dickson .

Lieut. Lawe, La Baye .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake , Jan y 27, 1814.

Dear Sir ,—Old Iskikinaibé came here with a cloud of demands on me, he picked up two women on the way who had been already cloathed & wanted another Cloathing for them & his wife, if I mistake not his wife got two Blankets & Strouds and other things; he also got a gun at La Baye; he wanted also a Kettle & payment for Twenty bags of Corn De Pin got from him at Chicago; he is an old fool, but as he has suffered in the War I will thank you to give him two bushels of wheat. I am waiting Thomas arrival to send off the Sauks. I am quite out of all kinds of provisions except potatoes & corn.

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Three heads of Oxen & their trotters. The Indians get no fish. I hope that you have procured the pease for me. I expect Thomas to-day.

I remain, anxiously wishing for the Spring, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

N. B. I gave the old fellow a Carrot Tobacco & half ax.

Lieut. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake Jan y 31, 1814.

Dear Sir ,—I received your seperate favors by my man Mr. Powell,¹ and I have hardly time to give you an Answer,

¹ Capt. William Powell.— Ed.

289 having been pestered with the Indians from Millwacke a parcel of vagabonds—some of them have been twice here & once at La Baye. Give them not an awl in future. Thomas informs me that Michelle Boyer was at La Baye, he is a rascal he was better served than any Indian that came here.

I send Three men to bring up wheat & a Mill for Ten days if to be procured; we are absolutely without provisions. I have wrote Mr. Grignon to request him to lend me a few Bushells pease & I will return him Corn, this I hope he will do as he must have a few Bushells on hand.

Send two Sleighs. Mr. Powell will return, he takes down a keg of sugar & a little paper for you.

Mr. Powell has seen the state of my Larder. What a prise for Beef. Necessity has no Law, I will write you fully by another occasion. I send off the Sank to-morrow. If you cannot get

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a Sleigh by fair means press one for the King, horse & owner. I thank you for the fish try & get me some more. Send me Twenty Five Bushells Wheat, Mill or no Mill we will pound it. Comp to all friends—it is difficult to know who are so at present. Keep taking the pills, drinking spruce.

Wishing you health, I am, Dear Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lt. Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake Feb y 4, 1814.

Dear Sir ,—I must begin by telling you my wants which are many. I am now entirely destitute of provisions. Since Mr. Powell left me upwards of forty Sauks came here, having eat nothing for Two days, & had not Askin taken up his Cache & given them foll avoins they must have perished, they are gone off well pleased and proud immediately to find their countrymen in the Missouri. I shall now give you a detail of other matters which I have learned by letters & papers which the Two prisoners Demonchell & Ribeau came with to the Prairie du Chien. They were prevailed on by Boilvin¹ to carry dispatches first to Peoria &

¹ Nicholas Boilvin, American Indian agent at Prairie du Chien.— Ed. 19

290 from there to the prairie. They were on their route secured by the Sauks and were in great danger of being killed by the Kickapous.

They have given every information I could wish & seem decent Men & were prevailed on for the Sum of One hundred dollars each to run the risque they have done, you will give them in charge to Lieut Pullman to be victualled as the Soldiers and allowed to walk about during the day but regularly to repair to the Barracks at Sun Sett. Demonchelle is unwell please give him some stomactic Medecines.

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I have told them what they must expect if they attempt to escape;—Boilvin & Jacrot have addressed two flaming Epistles to the people of the prairie—exhorting them to claim the protection of the great republic before it is too late & a great deal of ether stuff, but their main object is to discover whether there is any risque in their ascending the Mississippi this Spring. Brisbois¹ & Rollette laugh at their folly. Rollette has behaved very well as he has communicated all he knows respecting the Indians, he says La Feuille² received the powder &c with great joy and said that notwithstanding the ungrateful behaviour of his Nation he was happy that I thought of him and that he trusted their future behavior would be better. L'Aile Rouge gave Wampun to the Yanctongs inviting them to go with him to St Louis this spring saying that his people had relieved Aligne de Perch and that the English could not make head against the Americans. So much for that rascal.

1 Michael Brisbois, Sr., of Prairie du Chien.— Ed.

2 La Feuille, or Wabasha, a Sioux chief.— Ed.

Fort Madison was evacuated & burnt late in the season & all the other Forts have been abandoned except one newly erected at Peoria where there are One Hundred men. The Poutewatamie's to the number of Thirty families are near the Fort & go in and out as they please leaving their arms at the gate. Gomm & the Perdrex Noir with Eight others went down in a boat late in the season with a party of Soldiers to St. Louis. The Poutewatamies have always been villians to both parties & will continue so untill the end of 291 the Chapter. I will soon work them a [plot] they are little aware of.

The Creeks have one & all raised the Hatchet against the Americans, and have tottally cut off a Fort of 420 people fifteen miles below fort Stoddart. This occasioned all the Troops to be sent below. St. Louis might be taken this spring with 5 or 600 men it is unfortunate that we are required in another Quarter we should find something worth fighting for there. I suspect that the attack meditated by the Americans against Montreal last fall has completely failed. General [James] Wilkinson who commanded the Army of 6000 that was

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to descend the St Lawrence was said to be unwell, & on the 14 th of October, he was at Grenadier Island in Lake Ontario—he was to co-operate with General [Wade] Hampton & another General who had only 8000 betwixt them if this is there whole force the Sword & the severity of the Season must have accounted for them long ago.

From all appearances even from the Democratic papers, The Americans tremble for the consequences of the War in Europe.

They already figure the Russians & Cossacks at their doors. The Emperor of Austria has joined the Russians & Prussians & Swedes & their Combined forces amount to 540,000 men. There has been a dreadful battle at Dresden in Saxony it is reported that Gen l Moreau who had accepted of a Generals Commission in the Russian Service had both his Legs carried off by a Canon Ball in that Battle. Lord Wellington had taken the two important Fortresses of Pampeluna & St. Sebastian, and was advancing into France. I think that Bony¹ must be knocked up as all Europe are now in Arms.

1 Bonaparte.— Ed.

The crisis is not far off when I trust in God that the Tyrant will be humbled, & the Scoundrel American Democrats be obliged to go on their knees to Britain,—I should have gone down to see you but cannot for several reasons leave this place at present. Honory² has been un well with

2 Lewis Honore, interpreter.— Ed.

292 a Complaint in his Stomach I will thank you to send me by Mr. [Aeneas] La Rose some Friars Balsam or Turtington Peruvian bark & some of the Bitters Mr. Franks used. he has been very ill.

I am sorry to distress you by sending so many men to you but necessity has no law—I must have provisions nolens volens.

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The Indians have speared only One Sturgeon these Six days past. I wait for the return of the Express from Mackinac before I send to the prairie, thank heaven provisions are to be had there—All have left at present is 8 handfulls foll avoin—10 lbs Flour—2 Shanks Deers legs three frozen Cabbages & a few potatoes. The Sauks swept every thing I had & I was obliged to feed them with Sugar.

I hope that the Express will arrive in a few days & bring us good news. I think we shall do some thing this Campaign. We shall have powerfull reinforcements from England. The Spaniards have landed in the Floridas a great force & the British have declared all the southern states to be blockaded so that Neutrals cannot get into any of their ports—Never did War rage as it does at present, the World seems convulsed, thank providence Oar Country is still preheminent & will I trust continue so. Comp ts to all friends.

With best wishes for your health & your family, I remain, D r Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lt. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake Feb y 6 1814.

Dear Sir ,—I received yours of the 6 th Inst. and are happy to have received a supply of Provisions it was high time as I had nothing remaining.

I have sent back all the Bags as you wished and I have arranged with Masca & Mr. Lanchevin to bring up the remainder of his wheat as I shall want it all, when the Soldiers come up to assist in going to the Portage when the river is navigable. I have also purchased a young heifer 293 from Masca which will come up on her feet. You must do the best you can for Beef & flour for the Fencibles.

I shall take great care of the Mill & the Sieve & I thank you for having sent them.

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I have no Cartridge paper or I would send it to Mr. Palman. My Capot is a famous one and fitts me to a hair. Thank your girl for the trouble she has had in making it so well. I would not change Coats with the Grand Turk. I will give nothing more to the Indians of Millwackee they are a sett of Imposters. I have directed Chandonnet to keep the Keg of Powder & bag of Ball he has remaining. I expect News from Mackinac soon. God send us something good. I am in great hopes that we will do something this Year, but we want a General or two from Spain. There are men who can both plan & fight. I will write you in a few days. I want to get quit of the people, Indians, &c. Adieu.

Y rs &c. R. Dickson .

Lieut. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake Feb y 14 1814.

Dear Sir ,— I send this by two Indians, going to La Bay to get their Axes mended which you have done for them. Askyahr, Sen., goes with them, to bring up an Ox or Bull I have bought from [Joseph] Ducharmes Indian relations. Should he want assistance to bring up the Beast, please ask Mr. Pullman for two of his Men to assist.

The Six Indians went off yesterday, I am convinced that they were sent by some one employ'd by the Americans. I have discovered that the Grand Puant, a Poutewatamie Mr. Salieres friend came here with an intention of cutting us off but his heart failed him. When he requested me that his young men should dance, then I refused. He had previously to his setting out from his lodge sent round Tobacco to the young people about Millwackee to come here with him to dance. Perhaps he may come this way again—if he does he will not return. By the Conversation the Indians of his party held with the Folls avoins Band, Grand Calumet, I 294 can easily see that the Indians on that side wish us no good, but I will frighten them out of their Wits in a Short time. In three hours time I can collect One

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Hundred indians here & we have Spies gone beyond Millwackee. The folsavoines behave with Spirit & Judgement, it is fortunate for us there are such Indians in such times.

I shall send a strong party of Puants to Peoria about the beginning of next month & Messieu Les Pou¹ will get into a Scrape one way or other. I expect to hear from you to day. My respects to Mr. Pullman & Chapeu, best wishes to yourself & family.

1 Pottawattomies.— Ed.

I am Dear Sir Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lt. Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Lac Du Puants Feb y 26 1814.

Dear Sir ,—I got here very snug the second day finding we should be late I remained the night I left you at the Kakalin, where we were hospitably entertained. I kept Baptiste in expectation of hearing from the Mississippi, but in this I am disappointed. I beg that the Express may be forwarded with all possible dispatch. I have written to Capt. Bullock that if any thing new had transpired since I left La Baye, that you & Lieut. Grignon would give him information. I have yesterday received Accounts of the Poutewatamies intending me a visit, under pretext of going to strike on the Americans, I am well prepared come when they chuse. I send by Baptiste two Kettles the largest for the Brisques and the other for Madame Chevalier. Scarlet-Ratten for George & two rolls Ribbon for your girl. I am still troubled with Indians a squad of Puants arrived today & some who have been already here. A Sateux came here to-day with Pepeck I shall give him his presents tomorrow. I trust the Sleighs are on the way—the weather is hard. Write me by every opportunity—Next time I shall write you more at length. With wishes for your health & that of your family

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I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lieut. Lawe .

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GRIGNON TO J. B. BERTHELOTTE.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye 1 March 1814.

My Dear Sir ,—I have received your favor dated the 31 st of January, in which I was much pleased to learn of your enjoyment of good health.

I will inform you that we have the news from St. Louis by two Couriers, that Mr. Boilvin and Jarot have dispatched post-haste to La Prairie Du Chien two newspapers, one of which from Washington gives news greatly to our advantage. I can not enter into details as it is very probable that you may have known all this longer than we have, and that Mr. R. D[ickson] will send the papers to McKina [Mackinaw].

It is very probable that you will see the good Couriers who brought the news from beyond Prairie Du Chien, which Mr. Boilvin and Jarot heard about. The people beyond Prairie Du Chien who have surrendered to the Americans & are contented are told of the bad treatment experienced by Messrs. Cabonné & Chenié by the Americans. I have talked with Mr. Louis Gravelle two times explaining it & he told me he was looking for all means of satisfaction & not to be disturbed. I wait thus for new orders.

I pray you to send me yet an other pound of tea, if you have any more, by the Indian named Niguno-quom. I feel sure that you will be interested in all the news, and believe me

Your very obedient servant, Louis Grignon .

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To Jean Bt Berthelotte, Michilimakinac .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake March 3 d 1814.

Dear Sir ,—The letters which you sent by Boneterre¹ & which ought to have come first to hand, came last which prevented me sending the deer Skins for the people going

¹ Augustin Bonneterre, a Green Bay settler.— Ed.

296 express but I hope that you have been able to get them off before this. Jean Veaus Voyage here was certainly well meant, but had I listened to him & his report respecting the Indians, it might have been attended with the most fatal effect to myself & others. Lieut Grignon seems much vexed that Mr. [MS. obscure] should have neglected calling for his letter for [obscure] he was acquainted so to do, & it being really of great importance, I wish this matter cleared up to my Satisfaction. In the enclosed Statement respecting the Conduct of the Poutiwatami [Pottawattomie] nation last year & their subsequent behaviour here, you will judge for yourself, but had you been acquainted with the full extent of their villainy you would never have said from Mr. Jean Veaus report that What had been said of the Poutiwatamies was mostly false. I hope that you are now convinced. Mr. Augustin Grignon will inform you more fully respecting this business. I recommend to you to be particularly attentive to the motions of the Indians on the South Side of the River and note down the different Reports from thence.

I send you by Mr. Grignon a pec of Strouds & five p rs Blanketts & 14 Nett Thread. As soon as the weather is fine please send up Morneau do not forget the Nails & Oakhum if to be had. I am impatient to hear from the Mississippi & still more so from Mackinac. I shall not determine what I shall do in the Spring untill I hear from both places.

In my letter to Capt. Bullock after the receipt of yours by Mr. Jean Veau, I mentioned to him our people being still safe at Millwackee but by no means contradicted the Reports

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in Circulation respecting the Poutewatamies. I told him I should do every thing to avoid hostilities for the present but I believe the greater part of that nation our Worst enemies. I think that you gave into what Jean Veau said without weighing matters sufficiently. He was Eighteen days on his Voyage from Millwackie to La Baye. if the Indians had bad designs they would have concealed them from him. He was not unacquainted with the Situation of affairs at Peoria—& probably he might be tempted to conceal the Part the Old Faline acted—being a relative of 297 his wives. I am particular in stating these matters as in these times we cannot be too much on our Guard. Thank you for the Tobacco you sent me. I have got a Bull from Mr. L. Grignon which Mr. Augustin [Grignon] will bring up. This Cold weather sharpens the Appetite.

With best Wishes to yourself & Family, I remain Dear Sir Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lieut. Lawe, La, Baye .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake March 4, 1814.

Dear Sir ,—Please let the Blacksmith mend these Indians axes & some other triffling work—let each have a pair of Spears. In writing you Yesterday I forgot, talking to you about Mascas Account—please give year receipt for the Amount & specifying the articles for the use of Government. I have no mint here. The people seem very anxious about the payment of what they advance Government, it is perhaps the only real property they may have. Perrot is in a hurry & has waited [for] me to write this.

Yours adieu, R. Dickson .

Lt. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

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Winibagoe Lake March 9 th 1814.

Dear Sir ,—This will be handed you by the Soleil who came here yesterday with two Men. I refused giving him any thing as he brought nothing to shew from you, he says he has received nothing from you, if this is true please give them as you have done to others. I received your letter by Mrs. Beaupré with the Trousers Caps &c. which we thank the Woman for the trouble she has taken. I would send you the Deer Skins by the Indians bat shall wait another opportunity.

I do not think there was any thing improper in L t Grignons inquiring why his letter was not taken up by Jean veau, as I had requested him to write me on a particular 298 business—had it been my case I should have in order to justify Myself have acted as he has done; I hope that there will be no misunderstanding for the future. I sincerely believe you are both doing for the best in forwarding the service—and I should be extremely Sorry that at a time like this, the utmost cordiality should not subsist. I would by no means wish you to give way to what is right but you know the suaviter in modo is necessary at present—enough of this.

Pierre Le Clair arrived here two days ago & brought me a letter from La Salieres of 3 d Inst. L t Chandonnet had left Millwackee five days prior to that—& must be near La Baye if not arrived.

There is nothing new— but from what I have learned, the statement I made to the Commandant of Mackinac respecting the Indians is correct.

I have learned some particulars also respecting the Intention of the Indians who came here Some time ago which further convinces me of their bad intentions at that time. I am pleased that you got off the Express at the time you did—they must now be near the Manistique.

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No News yet from the Mississippi. I am afraid some accident has befallen Duncan [Graham] he was not used to be loitering so long. The Season is advancing fast this last fall of Snow will accelerate the breaking up of the Rivers. I will thank you to send up Morneau immediately as I intend to be prepared to move one way or other soon. The Express from Mackinac is late, but I trust that we shall have good news when it comes. My Compts to L t Pullman.

With best wishes for yourself & family

I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lt. Lawe .

P. S. Had I not received the supply of wheat you sent I believe one half of the Indians would have perished, it is mostly gone. I have been obliged to feed the people forty miles around me & have had other visitors in abundance. I am now looking out for Ducks and the poissons Dorr. We have not seen a Sturgeon's Snout these ten days. The Bull 299 is almost devoured, I shall send for no more Beef happen what will. Hunger is staring us in the face, but Providence will not abandon us.

Y rs R. D.

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winnebago Lake March 10 1814.

Dear Sir ,—By Baptiste I received yours of 13 th Inst yesterday with a very seasonable Supply of Provisions—three bushells remain at Mr. Grignons & if you find an occasion send two Bushells more there which will make something of a Load to come here I will in a day or two send you the bag of Duck Short if I have sufficient of that kind.

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Your observation respecting the Indians staying in their sugar camps is very just, but in the spring they can fish & dig roots; if I can procure a sufficiency of Provision to keep them Ten days after our Arrival at Mackinac I think that by that time we will have supplies. However we cannot regulate anything at present. As we shall be early in the Lake we shall find Sturgeon & Trout &c. in abundance and perhaps Pidgeons, we cannot starve.

No News from the Prairie. I am now uneasy respecting Duncan, as he is accustomed to be dilligent. I am well satisfied that the Thirty Indians did not pay me a visit. I have too many here already, and all Starving. I think that the Weather is now going to improve it is high time. Please tell Mr. Pullman, Lancette has his tent Tea Kettle & frying pan. I will send him the Hallyards by another opportunity. I have got quit of near Thirty Indians this morning who were stopped by the bad weather, but there are a sett of miserables whom I am obliged to feed remaining here. I am heartily tired of this kind of Life—anything for a Change.

With best wishes, I remain, Dear Sir, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lt. Lawe .

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DICKSON TO LAWE.

Lac Des Puants 11 th March 1814.

Dear Sir ,—Dire necessity compells me to send to you for Ten Bushells Wheat. The Indians are all starving. I have had Crowds from all quarters. We have a party out in search of a Family who were left in the middle of a Prairie a Old Man a Woman & three Children. Some of them I think are dead. I have learn'd from the Indians that the Express for Mackinac put back but I hope that it is not true. I send three men to assist in getting a load to the Cockalin & Mr Grignon will take it from thence. If you have a Quarter of Beef please send it. The Bull was not Beef only Bone. No News. I send you some deer Skins.

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No News from the Prairie. curse on their Negligence if no Accident has happen'd. Send Morneau with the Men & a few tools for making oars. With best wishes, I remain

Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lt. Lawe .

P.S. Please show Lt. Grignon my reasons for thinking the Pows [Pottawattomies] & others ill disposed.

If you can spare Baptiste please send him with the Load to the Kakalin as the River will soon be impracticable for Sleighs. I am really vexed to be obliged to send for more Provisions but Necessity has no law. I shall move from this as soon as I can one way or other as the Puants are beginning to draw round me & one had as well be in hell as with them.

Y rs R. D.

The Indians are hurrying me & I want to get quit of them.

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Lake Winebagoe March 31 1814.

Dear Sir ,—I received your letter of 19 th Inst. I intended sending you the Gazzettes long ago—but the heavy fall of Snow rendered the Roads almost impassible and otherways I had my Men occupied, making Oars &c.

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I intend leaving this, as soon as the ice gives way, which will be five or six days at most—& proceeding to the Portage to meet the provisions there—& from thence I shall go in a light Canoe to the Prairie & immediately return from thence, in this way I shall lose no time. I

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could have wished to have seen you before I leave this but the Country being covered with Water would in your present situation be injurious to your health. I have asked Mr. Grignon & Mr. Pullman to come up, & by them I shall write you what is to be done.

I trust the Mill is going. I shall ask you for no more provisions as I am convinced your stock is nearly expended, but I must keep my word in sending what I promised to Mackinac. If the people who desired me to send flour to be return'd have it ready all is well, but there is so much shuffling among them I do not know who to trust. Write me by Mr. Pulman your Opinion of this matter.

Get all the Wheat you have ground. I will return you what you want for Mr. Franks family. The flour must go to Mackinac the first boats—happen what will. I hope that your Cattle are at La Prille. I have had an offer from Mr. P. Grignon of a Barrel of Pork the fat of a Cow & 2 bags flour for Goods to be sent after the fair[?]. I will eat Bull frogs before I buy any more bad Beef at 30 c and I will starve or plunder rather that be imposed on in the price of Provisions. In asking exhorbitant prices for Provisions for the use of Government, people are not aware of what they are doing, but they will learn something about that matter.

Send me a bag of large Shott. I will send you Duck which is the only kind we have. I have a bag of Wheat at the Kakalin. We kill Decks in great abundance & can live if it pleases God without 30 c Bone.

Morneau is a fine specimen of La Baye, he is without exception the most lazy mortal I ever met. I take three Boats to the Portage & two go to La Baye. I will send you directions by Mr. Pulman how they are to go from there.

The more I reflect on the News we have received the more important I find them, the consequence to the World is beyond all Calculation. Never since the formation of the 302 [page torn] were such splendid events achieved for the benefit of Mankind. [I am still]

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pestered with Indians. I had a [visit from the] Millwackee Chiefs yesterday, they [have had] no News as they say from [the Prairie] this Winter.

Please let Mr. Grignon see all the Gazzettes [sent to] the Gentlemen, but in six days hence [I] would like to take them to the Prairie, tell me what is going on.

With belt Wishes for yourself & family, I am, Dear Sir, Yours sincerely, R. Dickson .

Lieut, Lawe .

P. S. The Renards have been lately here, they with the Sauks are playing a double game, but I have given them a severe lesson & chastisement will follow. More if they do not act as they ought.

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Winebagoe Lake April 4th 1814.

Dear Sir ,—As the River is open to this Lake I wish you to come up with Lieut. Pullman as soon as possible, in Order to arrange Matters in general for the Spring. The Boats from the prairie will be at the portage in Eight days—Mr. Grignon is not yet arrived here. You will ask Mr. Porlier, what quantity of Flour he can lend. I will be able to return it in five or Six days at most. Mr. Morneau has mended the Boats & he will also repair those lately gone down to La Baye. Please bring up the gazzetts. In expectation of seeing you in four days I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly, R. Dickson .

Lt. Lawe .

I will thank you to bring up the Grease &c.

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Portage Ouisconsin April 24, 1814,

Dear Sir ,—I got here yesterday & have in spite of all I can do been detained here to day. I leave this tomorrow 303 & hope to be at this place Nine days hence. I have brought the Puants to their senses & hope to do as much to others where I am going. You will furnish Lieut. Pullman Thirty Barrels flour independant of his provisions for men & self. I have directed Lieut Grignon to make every exertion to send in Indians with Lt Pullman & Lt. Chandonnet, have all in readiness for my Arrival as I shall pass but a few hours at La Baye. You will consult with Lt Grignon.

* * * * *

1 The letter is mutilated here, and undecipherable.— Ed.

Let us make every exertion to be prepared to meet the Enemy. With best wishes,

Yours truly, Robert Dickson .

Lieut. Lawe .

ORDERS TO THE LIEUTENANTS.

Orders.—The Lieutenants of the Department will assemble at the Interpreters tomorrow morning presisely at Five O'Clock & will direct them to give in a regular roll of all the Indians on the Island, spesefying those arm'd & unarm'd with their usual places of residense. No provisions will in future be issued to any Indians without the Interpreter is present & under whose direction they are placed. All Indian Canoes Arriving are to be immediately reported to me by the Lieutenant on duty. In future all Officers of the Department will assemble in every day at 10 O'Clock at the Superintendants House.

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R. Dickson , Ag & Superintendant.

Michilemackinac, June 28th 1814.

GRIGNON TO LOUIS CRAWFORD.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye Verte 6 September 1814.

Sir ,—I cannot give you the satisfaction of any news only the rumor which the Indians have brought that the Americans are coming up the Mississippi. I do not believe it at all because the thing is too sudden.

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I will send you a memorandum paper, which I would like you to attend to if it does not put you to any inconvenience.

Oblige me by writing what you hear on the subject of Peace as it concerns me greatly.

I have need of a barrel of salt, would like you to re supply me if you can succeed in getting it here.

I will not weary you longer; With perfect Esteem & Consideration, Sir,

Your very humble Servant, L. Grignon .

To Louis Crawford, McKinac .

GRIGNON TO CRAWFORD.

[Translated from the French by James D. Butler.]

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La Bay Verte 6 September 1814.

Sir ,—

* * * * *

Nine men from the shore by Milwaukee arrived here yesterday. They came on their way to get [as a convoy for] powder and ball, and said the other Indians called for them to meet the enemy who were on on their way to build a fort at Chicago.

* * * * *

With esteem and consideration, Sir, Your very Humble Servant, Louis Grignon .

Louis Crawford, Esq., McKinac .

GRIGNON TO DICKSON.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye 28 September 1814.

Robert Dickson, Esq. Agent & Superintendent of the Nations of the West, Michilimakinac .

Sir ,—I have nothing that merits your attention to mention. The Indians to the number of 15 lodges are camped here waiting resolutely for you, others are assembling here from all around, though I have said to them to assemble elsewhere as I thought you would be inconvenienced very 305 much here. My brother has informed you of the situation, and the behavior of the Indians.

I am commencing to be very anxious not having heard any news from you, everything must be quiet around Millwaukie.

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No news from the Mississippi.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant, L. Grignon .

GRIGNON TO ASKIN.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye Sept r 28 1814.

John Askin, Esq. Michilimakinac .

Dear Sir ,—The motive which induces me to write is to exempt myself from the title of idler.

I can give you no news all is quiet. I believe the Indians of the Illinois river have made several assaults upon Fort Clark but at present their treachery has been discovered.

The country around is very much devastated. About 100 cattle since spring, in connection with the Indians, have done great harm to the crops; several fields are entirely bare in their finest parts. The headstrong men of La Baye who remained out on the prairie say that the wheat is completely ruined in the fields. The Indians have stolen at their leisure not finding any one to oppose them.

L. Grignon .

GRIGNON TO COLONEL M'DOUALL.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye 14 Oct r 1814.

Lt. Colnl R. McDouall, Commanding Michilmakinac .

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Sir ,—I have the honor of addressing you through Mr. Dickson, who returned with the goods that you remitted to my care for me to dispose of & take in charge.

I should have desired to fulfill your wishes at least in part had I not been prevented in advance by the impossibility of 20 306 building in so short a time, as the Season is so advanced that it renders the return of your Soldiers impossible.

I have communicated to Mr. Polier the steps that you have taken for the indemnification of him against the damages caused to the Inhabitants of the place & he requested me to give you his most respectful thanks in the name of the Inhabitants.

At the requisition of Capt. Anderson please furnish to Capt. D. Graham whatever he requires.

There will be presented to you an account of Messrs. P r & Agt. Grignon¹ which I have signed, I beg you to see that they are paid.

¹ Messrs. Pierre and Augustin Grignon.— Ed.

There is annexed what has been furnished at the requisition of Lt. Pulman who left here before the arrival of Mr. D[ickson.]

I have the honor to be, Your very Obedient Servant, Louis Grignon ,

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Bute de Mort Nov r 20 th 1814.

Dear Sir ,—I send you by Mr. Grignon one Roll Tobacco, & the two kegs of Spirits I owe you for what the Indians got at La Baye. You will please give Brisque² something for his Children. Assist Boneterre & Petite to the first give him two Bottles & Something for his Children & Tobacco to the other give him a Nett if you can spare one I would not find

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the twine. Let Lieut. Grignon have Twenty pounds Tobacco. I will Send you Authority from Capt Bulger & myself to draw on the Commissary at Mackinac for the Amount of the Wheat you furnish & also the others.

2 Brisque Hyott.— Ed.

Tell Jean Veau I shall do my utmost to assist him to retain his house. The Stove that I got at the Mill is cracked & much broke I will put him [the stove?] in the Doctors hands and report the state of his health from time to time. God send us soft Weather otherways we are in a fine way only four days provisions, the Men have play'd the Devil 307 with the provisions in the Rapids. I shall write you by Periche¹ & send you what I promised you from thence. I am just leaving this & the Indians are flocking round me & the time is pressing. God keep you in health with your family.

1 Perrische Grignon.— Ed.

I am Sir Yours Sincerely, R. Dickson .

Lt John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE AND GRIGNON.

Praire Des Chiens Jan y 17 th 1815.

Gentlemen ,—You are hereby directed, to forward the express by Mr. La Rose, to McKinac with all possible expedition employing Active indians for that purpose with a person of confidence. La Rose returns immediately here, to this place.

You are hereby enjoined to pay due attention to the Orders that you may receive from Lt. Col. McDouall, and to be ready in the Spring to proceed to McKinac with the indians you may be able to prevail upon to accompany you. Lt Colonel McDouall will send you indian Corn for their provisions if he thinks proper so to do, if not do as well as you can.

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I have the Honor to be, Gentlemen

Your very Hble Serv t R. Dickson , Agt & Supt for West n Inds.

Lieuts Lawe & Grignon, La Baye .

GRIGNON TO M'DOUALL.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye Verte 2 Feb r 1815.

Lt. Colnl. R. McDouall, Commanding McKinac .

Sir ,—I present to you on this occasion an account of provisions made by Mr. Pierre Grignon upon my requisition, pursuant to the orders which I have received from you concerning different articles which are for issue.

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You will find a strange charge of a barrel of powder which I have borrowed with the idea that it could be returned with that which the Superintendent would bring, but the thing was not so easy to do. I have conceived that the intention of your orders admitted it might be included in the account of Provisions & I flatter myself that there will be no difficulty about it in paying the contractor.

I continue, Colonel, to be at your orders. I have been greatly honored by those which I have received, & if I have not filled them with sagacity according to your ideas, I have desired to do so. I have the honor to be,

Sir, your obed t serv t , L. Grignon .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

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Prairie du Chien Feb y 21 1815.

Dear Sir ,—I received your letters by La Rose—and I was not surprised at the distressed State of the Country, but I am truly astonished at the behaviour of the Messrs Grignon in withholding the Wheat they had promised to the Government. Captns Bulger and Anderson go to La Baye to sett these Matters to rights, to meet the express from Mackinac, & to procuring Gunpowder—Send me such as you can spare of that Article as you will soon have a Supply from Mackinac.

If you have any remaining of Mr. Franks you will of course sell it to the Gov t .

Send me also half of Your Tobacco. We are in want of every thing here. If you have or can procure Two Gallons Spirits—Pulman joins me in this request—Anderson will give you all the News & will also inform you respecting your Accounts against Government so that you may get paid at least for your wheat immediately. I wrote yesterday to Mr. Aird & told him that you was well. Sell the Horse as well as you can,—you know I am in want of Cash.

I can not say any thing respecting the probable movements of the Enemy in the Spring as we have yet no certain information. Our Situation is rather critical untill we get a 309 sufficient supply of Gun Powder. Should the Enemy not ascend the Mississippi I shall lose no time in going in to Mackinac & a little further as soon as possible as it is impossible for me to reside in this Country another Year without adequate Supplies.

I have also a few other triffling matters to put in Order. Write me fully respecting the Indians from Millwackee & St Josephs. You must certainly have learn'd Something from that Quarter.

There is no occasion for me to say any thing more at present as Capt Anderson will give you all the News of this place, and any assistance in other Matters, in his power.

With best Wishes for your health and that of your family

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I remain Dear Sir Yours Sincerely, R. Dickson .

Lt. John Lawe .

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Dear Sir ,—I have been very busy, and will write you more next time—tell me, know, if you have Gunpowder remaining & how much. Take care of the poor people I recommended to your Care. I believe I forgot petite.

Y rs R. Dickson .

Lieut John Lawe .

Send the Flints.

Indorsed: "Fort McKay, Prairie du Chien, 1815."

GRIGNON TO DICKSON.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye Verte 28 February 1815.

Robert Dickson, Esq., La prairie du Chien .

Sir ,—I take this occasion to address you these lines. I am mortified that I have learned nothing to communicate, not having as yet any news here from any where.

The last report we had was from the Puants of Fon du Lac who say there is a rumor in Miliwaukie that a party from the borders of Fort Wayne have reported that they 310 have killed 8 Americans, and also that the Americans have taken 100 Indians Prisoners.

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Mr. Lasaliere has not yet given us any news more than what I have mentioned.

I have the honor to be Your very humble servant, L. Grignon .

GRIGNON TO ASKIN.

[Translated from the French by James D. Butler.]

La Baye Verte , 23 March 1815.

Capt. John Askin, of the Ind. Dept., McKinac .

Sir ,—On the 20 th instant I had the honor of yours dated on the 7 th in which you inform me of the wishes of the commandant, in addition to the orders which I have received from him dated on the 4 th of March 1815.

The Indians at present are far off and scattered in quest of good fish, however I have spared neither presents nor indeed pains in endeavors to execute orders according to the ideas of the commandant and of yourself as given to me.

I would not wish to trouble the commandant with a letter but beg you to have the goodness to pay him my humble respects and the assurance of every exertion on my part in conformity with his orders.

Capt. Bulger, our commandant, left yesterday with Capt. Anderson of the Ind. Dept. L t . Lawe and I went to escort him as far as the Du Peres rapids.

He was obliged to make all persons sell him a hundredth part of the grain in their possession in his attempt to make out supplies for Indians on their passage to Mackinaw. This place is destitute of provisions. Many of the inhabitants, as I believe, will not be able to sow their fields for lack of seed grain, and as I think no body is in a condition to aid them

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in this matter. I beg you to excuse my writing and my bad style. My respects, etc., for your Lady and her daughter.

Begging you to accept my wishes for your health, I am, Sir, your very Obedient Servant, L. Grignon .

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N. B. As to private affairs, I am very sorry that I have failed [to receive] supplies, during the two past years, for I assure you that the bit of merchandise I have held in reserve these three years is worth its cost and interest. This year I purpose to go to Montreal, if I possibly can, and the journey be practicable.

DICKSON TO LAWE.

Prairie Du Chien April 10 th 1815.

Dear Sir ,—I received your letter by the Express. This goes by Thomas whom you will take care of. I expect to be with you on the 2 d of May. I would long ago have wrote you fully but for obvious reasons have deferred it untill I see you—all I say is I have been treated by the Agents of government with the vastest ingratitude but a short time will put all to rights, they Will find my loss when I am gone. I will never serve under Col. McDouall he has put that out of my power but the day of retribution is at hand & if common justice is done me he must go to the wall he is a weak vain foolish man. I wish that I had no worse to say of him, but I shall endeavor to prove him what he really is peace is at hand. I have received glorious news for myself. I shall leave this country without regret but for the poor people of the department whom I esteem & love, you will hear of the fatal Accident that befell peer La Rose, I regret him as a Brother lost. I warn'd him of little Canoes; he was drown'd with his brother in Law on the 3 d Inst.

Duncan Graham is going down to the Sauks; was there not favorable appearances to the termination of his drudgery he would throw up instantly.

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All confidence is lost here. It will require able people at the helm; they must keep a good lookout else the Ship is in danger.

I am, Sir, with sentiments of much regard, Yours truly, R. Dickson .

N. B. Our Friend Anderson has this winter acquired never fading Laurels in the school of deceit perfidy & All 312 Kinds of Villainey. I am sorry for him & vexed with myself at not having found him out sooner.

Lt. John Lawe .

CAPTAIN BULGER TO LAWE.

My Dear Sir ,—I shall by next conveyance send you Day lists for the Indian Dep. from 25th Sep. to the 24 Feby, which you will sign & get Lt. Grignon to do the same, an order will at the same time be sent you by the Commissary upon Mr. Monk¹ for the amount of your pay for that period. I shall send you L t Grignon & Interp. Grignon a certificate that you have lodging & fuel money due you from the 26 Oct. to the 24th April, which will enable you to get paid at Mackinac. Mr. Dickson will not be with you for some time— *you must not wait for him the moment you have collected even eighty Indians* , take them in. Barte & Mr. Grignon go off tomorrow morning to join you with the Winebagoes. Thomas with all the Folles Avoines here, go off too,—the Colonel is most anxious for your annual [report] at Mackinac as early as possible. If Mr. Grignon can take in 40 or 50 at first you can try & take in 50 more, others will no doubt go with Mr. Dickson. I would be ob l if you sent an Indian to meet Mr. Dickson at the Portage to tell him how many you have assembled so that he may not ask more to go in than is necessary; if an opportunity offers for Mackinac before you join yourself to Mr. Grignon, Send my letters.

¹ G. H. Monk, deputy assistant commissary-general at Michilimackinac.— Ed.

Believe me y r sincere friend, A. Bulger ,

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Cap n Com g Fort McKay & on Mississippi.

Fort McKay 11 th April 1815.

My respects to Lt. Grignon, Mr. Porlier—Mr. Jacob.

Indorsed: "Lieut. Lawe, Indian Dept., Green Bay. A. A, Bulger."

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BULGER TO LAWE.

Private & Confidential .

Fort McKay , Apl 1815.

My Dear Sir ,—As Mr. Dickson may most likely be at the Bay before you leave it for Mackinac, I must give you one piece of advice, which I trust you will attend to.

I gave you power when I was at the Bay to purchase any indispensable article which you might require for the public service, but this must not *on any account* , be construed into a permission to purchase any thing which Mr. Dickson may order. To avoid any future difficulty which may arise in the payment of accounts contracted by his order, I wish you, on the receipt hereof, to provide what you think you'll want, and by no means to make any purchases after Mr. D. joins you. It is solely for your sake that I give you this notice, as my name must not be shown for any thing Mr. Dickson may choose to purchase.

Mr. D. will be at La Baye about the last of this month. I expect Mr. Grignon every moment with the powder, he shall remain here one day to rest himself, the next day he goes off with Barge the interp r to take the Winebagoes to you. If the Indians are ready you must not wait for Mr. Dickson, 150 will be sufficient in all to take in.

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We have lost poor Larose, who was unfortunately drowned 2 days after I arrived crossing the river. I am really sorry for him as his place cannot be filled, his loss is indeed irreparable. You will be badly off for an interpreter & had better take his brother Alexis in with you. Tell Mr. Grignon that Mr. Dickson will be able to arrange the accounts he has against him when he gets to the Bay.

Maynard arrived here this day from the Rock river, he says the socks [Sauks] have taken a prisoner on the Missouri, (Blondeau's nephew), & killed one, (an American) which makes the ninth they have killed lately. I expect the young man here every day.

Reports from below say the Spaniards are certainly coming to St Louis by way of the Missouri and that they are cussedly afraid at St. Louis, they also say the Spaniards are 314 close by New Orleans. The socks are in great spirits; as soon as the person arrives I intend sending Graham down with 400 D [\$400] & 800 Ball with a Blacksmith to remain with the socks for a few months.

You have no occasion to keep any Indian goods but the powder, Balls, flints & Tobacco, every other Article of Indian goods belonging to Gov t you will pack up in a case (including the Arm Bands & Gorgets) & leave with Mr. Porlier to forward us to this place by the first opportunity. The sugar if you have got it for me, leave also with Mr. Porlier to forward me. I am going to inclose you a doubloon to pay you for the Cloth, but must appear to lend it. I express it by Mr. Dickson; don't forget to ask Mr. Barthelot if he has recd the money I. Thompson owes me, & if not speak to T—about it. If Mr. Barthelot has recd it, tell him to give it to you after paying himself the small am t I owe him; if you receive any of it, I will tell you what to buy for me at Mackinac. I will write you again by Mr. Dickson, excuse this miserable scrawl, being pressed for time.

Believe me Y r sincere friend, A. A. Bulger .

Tell David not to forget the sagenash [English], & the sagenash won't forget him.

GRIGNON TO BARTHELOTTE.

[Translated from the French by James D. Butler.]

La Baye Verte 18 May, 1815.

Dear Sir ,—

* * * * *

We know nothing as yet of the news except that by the Gazette we see that we are ceded to the Americans.

* * * * *

I am, Sir, your very ob t Serv t , Louis Grignon .

Mr. Jean, Bt. Barthelotte, McKinac .

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GRIGNON TO DICKSON.

[Translated from the French by Emma A. Hawley.]

La Baye 29 May 1815.

Dear Sir ,—you will receive inclosed in this the receipts of Capt. Porlier & of Capt. Grignon for 25 pounds of powder which I have delivered to them following your commands. I have put in your care several Articles for the Sacks, consisting of one pound of powder one pair of darts 2 measures of tobacco & and one and a half bushels of wheat for them to take with them to McKinac.

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I have not a single particular to communicate to you. The Indians of the river, the Sacks, have asked for permission to go to the Americans at Peorya, my reply has been that I was very much surprised at such a request. They have been impatient because they could not go because their father was going to make terms of Peace with them.

I learned yesterday that it was about 7 days since the Indians were at Lac du Elambeaux having passed Lac Chawounon [Shawano] with 100 men for me to conduct to Makina with la Boull at the head of the party.

I have asked for Thomas to make known my departure to him. I know that you have told him to wait for you. I do not wish him to come with me. Mr. Aird left here yesterday with Mathew & I go tomorrow.

Wishing you the best health & prosperity I am

Your servant & friend, L. Grignon .

To Robert Dickson .